brainwaregroup

Windows 8 / 2012 Framework for C7.2

Preview

Module version 7.2

columbus

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General

0.1 Limitations

The current **Windows 8 Extensions** are a free-of-charge preview of the future integration of Windows 8 with Columbus.

This preview will not comprise any warranties, guarantees or support. Please feel free to contact our consultants for assistance. Please ask for an unbinding quote.

Furthermore, we will gladly accept your suggestions and improvement requests. Please contact our Servicedesk via E-Mail support@brainwaregroup.com.

0.2 FAQ

Which editions of Windows 8/Server 2012 are available and how are they supported by Columbus?

Edition Name	Architecture 32/64-Bit	OS Deployment	SW Deployment	Inventorization Scanner / Asset*
Windows 8 Basic	32/64-Bit	yes	yes	yes
Windows 8 Professional	32/64-Bit	yes	yes	yes
Windows 8 Enterprise	32/64-Bit	yes	yes	yes
Windows 8 RT	ARM	no*	no*	Columbus Mobile
Server 2012 Standard	64-Bit	yes	yes	yes
Server 2012 Datacenter	64-Bit	yes	yes	yes
Server 2012 Standard Core	64-Bit	yes	yes	yes
Server 2012 Datacenter Core	64-Bit	yes	yes	yes

* This feature / function is currently being developed

Question Do I need an ActiveDirectory domain based on Server 2012 if I want to modify Windows 8 settings?

Answer No, the most important settings can be modified in Columbus by using a combination of base and final package.

CHAPTER 1

OS deployment

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1.1 Prerequisites

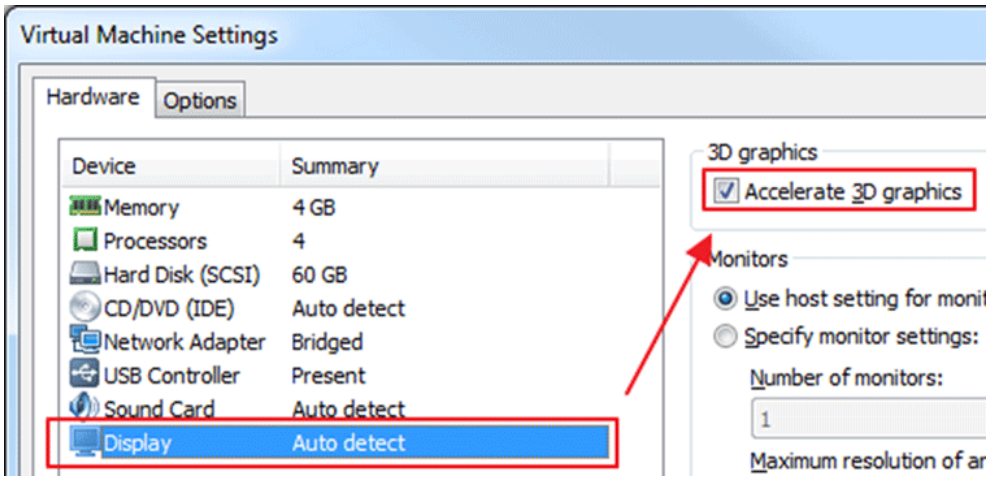
Test environment

Physical machine with Windows 8 logo (Certified for Windows 8)

or

Virtual machine (VMware Workstation V9.x and later)

Note For virtual machines, we would like to recommend the 3D acceleration of the virtual video card.



Columbus 7.2.x

WinPE 6.1 (delivery from C7.2 and later)

Setup framework ("C7.2.x Win8 Extensions")

Asetup Jobs ("C7.2.x Win8 Extensions")

DVD medium (in directory `\Sources`):

boot.wim

ei.cfg (if available)

lang.ini

install.wim

The handling of installation and activation of the Windows installations has been modified in Windows 8 / 2012. If a file named `ei.cfg` exists, it must be included in the OS release.

A Windows copy is available as evaluation under the following link:
http://technet.microsoft.com/en-US/evalcenter/hh699156.aspx?ocid=wc-tn-feature&Loc=zatfz_zTS1z&type=zDLz_zforz&prog=zEvalz&prod=zWin8z
http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/evalcenter/hh699156.aspx?ocid=wc-tn-feature&loc=zatfz_zts1z&type=zdlz_zforz&prog=zevalz&prod=zwin8z

1.2 unattend.xml with license key

In case of the retail versions of W8 and W2012 you have to store a license key in the unattend.txt file.

If it shall be possible to use several images with this license key (e.g. for Windows 2012 SERVERSTANDARD and SERVERSTANDARDCORE), the corresponding select jobs have to be used in addition:

- c_W2012_SERVERDATACENTER.lic
- c_W2012_SERVERDATACENTERCORE.lic
- c_W2012_SERVERSTANDARD.lic
- c_W2012_SERVERSTANDARDCORE.lic
- c_Win_8_Basic.lic
- c_Win_8_Pro.lic

1.3 Installation without any license key

It is still possible to install Windows without any license key. Due to the modified installation requirements of Windows 8/2012, it is not sufficient anymore to store NO license key in the unattend.xml file.

The definition, whether a license key is required or not, is controlled via the `ei.cfg` file in the subdirectory `\Sources` of the corresponding OS release.

Example of an `ei.cfg` file, which can be used to completely suppress the query for the license key:

```
[EditionID]
[Channel]
eval
[VL]
```

Important	Please note that this procedure is not officially supported by Microsoft and could be removed or prohibited by Microsoft at a later time.

CHAPTER 2

SW deployment

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2.1 General

The SW distribution works the same in Windows 8 as in the previous Windows versions. Since under Windows 8, the Modern-UI is started by default instead of the desktop, you are not able to see whether the Management Client is working in the background and possibly requires a system restart.

Furthermore, the end users are mostly required today to decide by themselves whether the computer shall be restarted or not. Therefore, we would like to recommend the Columbus function *FriendlyReboot*.

2.2 Windows 8 / 2012 detection

By using the following code in Columbus Scripts, it is possible to detect whether Windows 8 / Server 2012 is installed on the computer when the Columbus script is running.

```
If not '%_OSMajorVersion%.%_OSMinorVersion%' = '6.2' then log 'Only for Windows 8/2012'
```

CHAPTER 3

Appearance and system settings

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For the user, the operation and the surface of Windows 8 is completely different. After the system start, the login screen is locked with the so-called "LockScreen" which has to be moved up first. After the login, the tile surface "Metro" resp. "Modern UI" is shown.

These and other configuration settings can be easily modified by using a combination of base and final package.

3.1 Metro / Modern-UI

When the development of Windows 8 started, the new operating concept was called *Metro*, since this design had already been used for the established Windows Phone. However, in order to avoid a possible legal action with a retail store, this concept has been renamed to *Modern-UI*.

Please refer to: *http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metro_%28design_language%29*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/metro_%28design_language%29

Nearly all third party developers so far have called their solutions Metro.

3.2 General

With Windows 8, Microsoft has introduced a completely new operating concept which is designed very much for the usage of tablet computers with a touch screen. Whether this new design makes sense also on computers without touch pad or not, will finally be decided by the end user.

The brainwaregroup will not deliver alternate solutions such as "Classicshell", "Start8" or "Skip Metro Suite" in combination with the Columbus product. We will, of course, support you in the implementation of these applications as Packages, but have to reject all warranties or guarantees.

3.3 Base and final package

In order to be able to work with Windows 8 very quickly, the brainwaregroup provides two Packages, which can configure the most important settings for you.

The Packages **100011_Client_Base_Config_NT6** and **990001_Final_Base_Config_NT6** are the centerpiece of each successful start-up of Windows 8. These Packages can also be used for the previous Windows NT6.x versions such as Vista or 7.

Below, you can find a small excerpt of the setting options. The mentioned parameters can be modified/set in the file `100011_Client_Base_Config_NT6.cfg` which can be found in the Package of the same name under `\Config`. This configuration file is used fully automatic. You do not have to do anything on your existing system. Example for a file storage on your Infrastructure Service:

```
D:\Columbus\SWDepot\100011_Client_Base_Config_NT6.UNI\01.0\Config\100011_Client_Base_Conf
ig_NT6.cfg
```

The setup of the user profile requires or executes automatically a session end (logoff, signout). This behavior can be prevented with the following key:

```
b_UserNoInitialLogoff=1
```

Note Both the Packages are available free-of-charge. There is no warranty or guarantee for the contents. Some of the setting options are dependent on the service pack or other external influences.

3.4 Local administrator

The password and the name of the local administrator can be switched automatically. This modification can be done at any time, Columbus recognizes automatically if the password or the user name has to be changed (on each system restart or user login, but at max. once a day).

Example settings (the administrator is renamed and a new PW is set):

```
; === ADMINISTRATOR ACCOUNT ========================================
; = Will be changed only once a day!
; = Accountname (As plaintext)
 b_LocalAdminName=LocalAdmin
; = Password (encrypted string using CRYPTIT.exe)
 b_LocalAdminPass=H#B7572735563CA55BD21A93E9C619A20A1AD497E10AAFDB0B
```

Note The password must be stored in encrypted form using `Cryptit.exe`. This tool can be found in the directory of the Management Console.

3.5 System and user settings

Often users wish that e.g. the extension of known data types is shown instead of only the name. Or you want that the useful desktop icons for the computer or the waste paper basket are shown.

This and many more options can be changed in the configuration file of the base package:

```
; === USER DESKTOP SETTINGS ========================================
; === COMMON NETWORK SETTINGS ======================================
```

3.6 Lock screen

After the start of Windows 8, at first a lock screen will appear, which is able to show live information (Ex. from Outlook or similar). For multiple user systems, this is undesirable, because it cannot be ensured which user wants to log in.

The lock screen can either be disabled:

```
b_NoLockScreen=1
```

or replaced with the known "Ctrl+Alt+Del" command:

```
b_LogonDisableCtrlAltDel=0
```

3.7 Metro

The Metro surface cannot be disabled. It is only possible to bypass it:

```
b_BypassMetro=1
```

After bypassing the Modern-UI, the directory *My Documents* is started automatically (default option).

3.8 Shutdown, restart, log-out

In order to show the "Power" menu, you can either press the key combination WIN + I, or you can add a link to the desktop or to the Modern-UI menu, which shows the known "Shutdown Dialog":

Adding a link to the desktop:

```
b_AddDesktopShutdownDlg=1
```

Adding a link to Modern-UI:

```
b_AddProgramsShutdownDlg=1
```

3.9 Background image

The background images of the lock screen resp. log-in screen cannot be automated so far. We are still working on this and will incorporate changes in the **base** and **final package**.

3.10 Using Windows apps

Windows 8 already contains some apps which are available in Modern-UI. In order to execute them, the user must not be the local administrator and the user account control must be enabled.

The UAC can be enabled using the following parameter:

```
b_EnableUserAccessControl=1
```

3.11 Installing Modern-UI apps

At the moment, apps can only be obtained via the Windows Store. This can lead to problem in a company if all users are free to download anything they want. Due to this problem, the Windows Store can be disabled, so that no more apps can be obtained:

```
b_DeviceDisableWindowsStore=1
```

Note The distribution of other Modern-UI apps will be possible in the future via Columbus SW management.

In order to allow the deployment of non-Windows-Store apps, this has to be set beforehand:

```
b_DeviceAllowTrustedApps=1
```

3.12 Removing Modern-UI apps

There are some apps which do not belong to the basic scope of a productive working place. These can be easily uninstalled using Columbus (the names are self-descriptive):

```
b_UserAppRemove_MS_BingFinance=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_BingMaps=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_BingNews=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_BingWeather=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_BingTravel=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_BingSports=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_Bing=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_Camera=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_SkyDrive=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_Reader=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_XboxLive=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_ZuneVideo=1
b_UserAppRemove_MS_ZuneMusic=1
```

3.13 16-bit support

The support of 16bit applications is disabled by default and should only be enabled in exceptional cases. (security risk regarding the Virtual DOS Machine VDM):

```
b_DeviceDisable16bit=1
```

3.14 Popular shortcuts

Shortcuts	Action
WIN	Opens Modern-UI or shows the desktop
WIN + I	Opens the Modern-UI menu on the side
WIN + R	Opens the "Run..." dialog
WIN + L	Locks the computer
WIN + C	Opens the "Charm" bar with other Modern-UI options
WIN + X	Management menu
WIN + E	Runs the Windows Explorer
WIN + F	Opens a file search window